

**DAUGHTERCARD-BASED SYSTEM SOFTWARE AND
HARDWARE FUNCTIONALITY-DEFINING MECHANISM**

ABSTRACT

A test apparatus for telecommunication equipment includes motherboard that executes a resident operation control mechanism, so that the test apparatus exhibits default hardware functionality. However, if a daughtercard has been plugged into the motherboard, the motherboard ignores the default firmware and executes whatever replacement operation control software is provided on the daughtercard - causing the test apparatus to acquire a hardware functionality exclusive of the motherboard default.